Message Text

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R 191957Z JUL 76 FM SECSTATE WASHDC TO AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM

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E.O. 11652:N/A

TAGS: CVIS, TZ

SUBJ: NON-OFFICIAL VISITOR VISA RECIPROCITY: DISCUSSION WITH AMBASSADOR BOMANI

REF: A) DAR ES SALAAM A-9, FEBRUARY 12; B) DAR ES SALAAM A-25, MAY 26

1. DEPARTMENT OFFICERS MET WITH AMBASSADOR BOMANI JULY 6
TO DISCUSS SUBJECT. FOLLOWING PRESENTATION OF PROBLEM BY
REPRESENTATIVE FROM SCA/VO, BOMANI SAID THAT HE UNDERSTOOD
PROBLEM, BUT THAT PROBLEM FOR TANZANIA WAS CREATED BY
PERSONS GOING TO SOUTH AFRICA AND THEN WANTING TO REENTER
TANZANIA. IT WAS EXPLAINED THAT DEPARTMENT CONSIDERS
THESE TWO SEPARATE ISSUES. BOMANI THEN AGREED THAT WITH
TOURISTS AND PERSONS GOING FOR BUSINESS REASONS, PRINCIPLE
OF RECIPROCITY SHOULD BE FOLLOWED; THAT EXISTING PRACTICES
SHOULD BE EXPANDED, NOT RESTRICTED. AFFIRMING THAT HE
"TOOK THE POINT," BOMANI SAID IT WAS "NOW A MATTER OF
PROCEDURE." HE REQUESTED A NOTE FROM THE DEPARTMENT ON
THE SUBJECT AND SAID THAT HE WOULD TAKE IT UP WITH HIS
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GOVERNMENT. HE ALSO ASKED THAT OUR EMBASSY RAISE SUBJECT

WITH FONMIN IN DAR.

- 2. BOMANI REITERATED HIS CONCERN THAT PEOPLE WILL TAKE ADVANTAGE OF MULTIPLE ENTRY VISAS TO GO TO SOUTH AFRICA. IT WAS SUGGESTED THAT TANGOV COULD REFUSE ADMITTANCE TO PERSONS IT DEEMED UNDESIRABLE EVEN IF THEY HAD A TANZANIAN VISA OR IT COULD PUT RESTRICTIONS ON THEIR TRAVEL IN TANZANIA, AT WHICH HE SEEMED SOMEWHAT SATISFIED. BOMANI CONCLUDED BY STATING THAT "RELATIONS ARE IMPROVING AND WITH THAT IMPROVEMENT, CERTAIN FORMALITIES SHOULD IMPROVE."
- 3. FOLLOWING IS TEXT OF NOTE SENT TO TANZANIAN EMBASSY: BEGIN TEXT: THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE REFERS THE EMBASSY OF TANZANIA TO THE QUESTION OF THE RECIPROCITY OF VISAS FOR TOURISM AND BUSINESS PURPOSES BETWEEN THE UNITED STATES AND TANZANIA, AND TO THE CONVERSATION OF JULY 6 ON THIS SUBJECT BETWEEN DEPARTMENT OFFICIALS AND AMBASSADOR BOMANI, AND WISHES TO BRING THE FOLLOWING TO ITS ATTENTION.

SINCE LATE 1970 THE UNITED STATES HAS GRANTED TANZANIAN VISITORS LESS RESTRICTIVE VISAS THAN THOSE TANZANIA HAS GRANTED UNITED STATES VISITORS FOR TOURISM OR BUSINESS. THE CURRENT SITUATION ALLOWS A TANZANIAN VISITOR TO OBTAIN A VISA GOOD FOR AN UNLIMITED NUMBER OF ENTRIES TO, AND EXITS FROM, THE UNITED STATES OVER A PERIOD OF THREE MONTHS. A UNITED STATES CITIZEN RECEIVES FROM THE TANZANIAN GOVERNMENT A VISA GOOD FOR A SINGLE ENTRY (AND EXIT) OVER A PERIOD OF SIX MONTHS.

THIS MATTER OF THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN VISAS ISSUED BY TANZANIA AND VISAS ISSUED BY THE UNITED STATES HAS COME TO THE ATTENTION OF THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE BECAUSE OF COMPLAINTS BY UNITED STATES TOURISTS WHO CLAIM THAT UNITED STATES CITIZENS ARE BEING DISCRIMINATED AGAINST IN VIOLATION OF THE PROVISIONS OF THE IMMIGRATION AND NATIONALITY ACT.

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ISSUED TO FOREIGN NATIONALS WISHING TO ENTER THE UNITED STATES ARE GOVERNED BY THE PRINCIPLE OF RECIPROCITY. THE APPROPRIATE LEGISLATION STATES THAT "IN PRESCRIBING THE PERIOD OF VALIDITY OF A NONIMMIGRANT VISA IN THE CASE OF NATIONALS OF ANY FOREIGN COUNTRY WHO ARE ELIGIBLE FOR SUCH VISAS, THE SECRETARY OF STATE SHALL, INSOFAR AS PRACTICABLE, ACCORD TO SUCH NATIONALS THE SAME TREATMENT UPON A RECIPROCAL BASIS AS SUCH FOREIGN COUNTRY ACCORDS TO NA-

TIONALS OF THE UNITED STATES WHO ARE WITHIN A SIMILAR CLASS."

THE EFFECT OF THE PRESENT SITUATION ALLOWS A TANZANIAN VISITOR TO ENTER AND DEPART THE UNITED STATES AT WILL FOR UP TO THREE MONTHS. ITINERARIES OF SUCH VISITORS OFTEN SHOW BUSINESS SIDE-TRIPS TO MEXICO, CARIBBEAN COUNTRIES, CANADA AND JAPAN WITH RETURN THROUGH THE UNITED STATES. THE MULTIPLE RE-ENTRY PROVISION THUS FACILITATES TANZANIAN TRADE REPRESENTATIVES BY SAVING THEM THE TIME, THE EXPENSE (U.S. DOLS. 3.10 PER VISA) AND THE INCONVENIENCE OF REAPPLYING FOR VISAS BEFORE EACH ENTRY. THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE SUPPORTS THIS PRACTICE AND WOULD CHANGE TO A SINGLE-ENTRY VISA POLICY ONLY WITH REGRET.

IN CONTRAST, THE UNITED STATES VISITOR, USUALLY A TOURIST, CAN ENTER TANZANIA ONLY ONCE. TYPICALLY, UNITED STATES TOURISTS USE THEIR VISAS TO ENTER TANZANIA VIA KENYA TO VISIT NORTHERN TANZANIAN GAME PARKS AND RETURN TO KENYA. THOSE TOURISTS WHO THEN DESIRE TO VISIT DAR ES SALAAM, ZANZIBAR, OR TRANSIT TANZANIA EN ROUTE TO ZAMBIA/MALAWI/MOZAMBIQUE MUST SPEND TIME, PAY ANOTHER FEE AND SUFFER THE INCONVENIENCE OF OBTAINING ANOTHER VISA.

THE DEPARTMENT HOPES THAT THE EMBASSY WILL RECOMMEND TO ITS GOVERNMENT A MODIFICATION OF ITS VISA POLICY IN ORDER THAT MULTIPLE ENTRY VISAS MIGHT BE ISSUED TO UNITED STATES CITIZENS WHO WISH TO VISIT TANZANIA FOR TOURISM OR BUSINESS PURPOSES, OR, ALTERNATIVELY, THAT TWO-ENTRY VISAS FOR TANZANIA MIGHT BE ISSUED TO THEM. END TEXT.

4. REQUEST EMBASSY RAISE THIS SUBJECT AT APPROPRIATE LEVEL WITH FOREIGN MINISTRY AND KEEP DEPARTMENT ADVISED LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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